

## **MALARIA**

Malaria is a parasitic infection of red blood cells caused by *Plasmodium* species. The disease is vectorborne and is transmitted to humans by the bites of the infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes. Malaria is characterized by cycles of chills, fever, headache, and sweating. Depending upon the species, acute illness may develop into a variety of syndromes with severe complications including coma and death. Malaria also may be transmitted transplacentally. The disease may recur over a period of 50 years.

### **Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:**

- Demonstration of malaria parasites in blood films.

### **Class Classification**

*Confirmed:* An episode of microscopically confirmed malaria parasitemia in any person (symptomatic or asymptomatic) diagnosed in the United States, regardless of whether the person experienced previous episodes of malaria while outside the country.

### **Comment**

A subsequent attack experienced by the same person but caused by a different *Plasmodium* species is counted as an additional case. A subsequent attack experienced by the same person and caused by the same species in the United States may indicate a relapsing infection or treatment failure caused by drug resistance.

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### **Epidemiology**

Kentucky 2002	Rate per 100,000	Cases by Gender	Rate per 100,000
Cases 8	0.2	Female 0	0.0
		Male 8	0.4
U. S. Rate (2001)	0.55		

Three of the cases were associated with military duty, 2 in returning military from Korea and 1 from Afghanistan. Three of the cases were in Africans visiting in this country and two in persons who traveled to Africa.

